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Attorney Docket No. 23800

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

MARAIS

Examiner: M. Bumgarner

Serial No.: 09/582,700

Art Unit: 3732

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For: **IRRIGATING MEDIUM FOR ROOT CANALS**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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Appendix B

Please amend the following claims as indicated in the following clean copy of the claims.

B 1  
1. A method for treating root canals, comprising applying an irrigating medium to a root canal, wherein the irrigating medium comprises an aqueous solution being characterized in that it is electro-chemically activated and, wherein the electro-chemically activated aqueous solution includes both an aqueous predominantly anion-containing and an aqueous predominantly cation-containing solution having microcidal as well as dispersing and surfactant properties.

2. (Cancelled)

B2  
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the aqueous anion-containing solution and the aqueous cation-containing solution

are prepared by means of electrolysis of an aqueous solution of a salt.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the anion-containing and the cation-containing solution are produced by an electro-chemical reactor comprising a through-flow, electro-chemical cell having two co-axial electrodes with a co-axial diaphragm between them so as to separate an annular inter-electrode space into cathodic and anodic chambers.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the anion-containing solution is produced from a 10% aqueous NaCl solution, electrolysed to produce separable activated or excited radical cation and radical anion species, the anion-containing solution having an extremely high redox potential of up to about +1170 mV.

8. An irrigating medium for irrigating root canals, the irrigating medium comprising an electro-chemically activated, aqueous saline solution, wherein, the electro-chemically activated aqueous solution includes both an aqueous predominantly anion-containing and an aqueous predominantly cation-containing solution having microcidal as well as dispersing and surfactant properties.